

STAT

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EDUCATION
IN RURAL AREAS OF EAST CHINA

The purchasing power of the peasants in 1951 averaged 50 percent over that of 1950. In Shantung, 80 percent of the peasants are middle-class peasants and now have an annual operating surplus. In Chekiang, peasant purchasing power in 1951 was 63 percent over 1950, or from 95 catties of rice in 1949 to 250 catties in 1951, a 257 percent increase in 2 years. The sales of rice in certain mountainous areas in 1951 were three times those in 1950. In Chi-mo Hsien, Shantung, the people are shifting from a principal diet of vegetable leaves and dried sweet potatoes to rice. The consumption of salt, rice, and pork throughout East China is steadily increasing.

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Cultural centers are being opened in most areas and opera troupes are springing up everywhere. Winter schools enrolled 7 million students in the 1950 - 1951 winter. Three million are enrolled in year-round schools. This is three times the preliminary estimates. Nearly 2 million of these students are in Shantung, 360,000 in South Kiangsu. Primary schools in East China numbered 109,000 in 1951, 18 percent over 1950. The enrollment was 9,440,000, 28 percent over 1950.

In South Anhwei, school enrollment has increased to 234,000, twice that of pre-liberation days. Over 80 percent of the schools are operated by the local authorities with government aid. Primary and middle schools in Shantung more than double those of pre-liberation days. Children of working people constitute over 90 percent of enrollment. -- I Chiu

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